

have taken the articles away without paying for them.

She also left unpaid debts behind her.

Mr. Clifford A. Worthington, a real-estate operator, 144 East State Street, Trenton, had a contract dated May 3rd, 1910, for the purchase of land from Robert Butterworth and others on the northerly side of Butler Street, which is signed by William H. Easton and Jessie M. Easton, his wife (Jane Gibson). Before taking title she employed one Winfield Scott Hill to erect a barn on the property and failed to compensate him.

Chief County Detective James S. Kirkham of Trenton does not recall Jane Gibson ever being arrested, though he remembers numerous complaints were received by the prosecutor's office about her running a disorderly house. They threatened to raid her place if similar reports were filed. He states that he would not take her word "to even convict a yellow dog".

Vincent P. Bradley of 50 Perdicaris place, Trenton, remembers that Jane Gibson and her husband were arrested while at 336 South Broad Street for being parties to a "badger" game. He considers her erratic, malicious and "shady".

LIFE IN NEW BRUNSWICK

1914 -

Very little is known of Jane Gibson's life at New Brunswick during the first four years (1914-1916) of her stay here.

Dr. Little, formerly in charge of the Rockefeller Institute in New Brunswick during these years, and now at Princeton, remembers that she bought horses, sold pigs and carcasses of horses, and that she dealt in chicken wire and junk.

Her family, on her removal to New Brunswick, was constituted of old and young Easton, Bill Whittaker and herself. Alice had previously left her.

She has always been known here as Jane Gibson, adopting the name of "Gibson," by which the farm was known.

She told Dr. Little that she had spent part of her life in a circus as a "bare-back rider".

She spoke of Whittaker as her brother.

1918

During the early summer of this year a cow belonging to

Mr. Joseph Kossak, one of Jane Gibson's neighbors, broke away and into the truck garden of Jane Gibson, who seized the cow and kept it in her shed, informing Kossak that she would return the cow only on payment of \$5. This he paid. About a year later two horses belonging to Jane Gibson entered Kossak's corn fields, causing damage. He locked them in his barn and informed her that on payment of \$5, to compensate him for the damage they had caused, he would return them. Jane Gibson refused to pay this amount and, with Bill Whittaker, administered a severe beating to Mrs. Kossak - Kossak being then away. They then took the horses from Kossak's barn together with a bunch of keys, a lock and two new halters belonging to Kossak, which were never returned. Mrs. Kossak was then in a pregnant condition and suffered a miscarriage because of the beating.

Kossaks preferred charges against Jane Gibson but the Grand Jury of Somerset County failed to indict on account of insufficient evidence. Jane Gibson, Whittaker and "Willie" Easton testified before this Grand Jury that Mrs. Kossak had chased them from her house to the Gibson house and that she had fired twenty (20) shots into Jane Gibson's front door.

Kossak states that when Jane Gibson's pigs died with colera, she would dress them and take them to New Brunswick or Somerville, where she sold the carcasses to the local butchers.

It is also stated that a Mrs. Petrucci, living near Jane Gibson on the old Millstone Road, lost six (6) pigs at one time which she had good reason to believe Jane Gibson had stolen from her.

In this connection, Mr. Joseph Baier has expressed the opinion that Jane Gibson is responsible for many thefts of chickens occurring in the vicinity.

Kossak remembers that Bill Whittaker always carried a two-barrel shotgun.

For some time prior to September 14, 1922, and up to about a week before that time, a young negro by the name of Cecil Battle lived on the Gibson Farm. It is reported that he, too, had illicit relations with Jane Gibson. It was shortly before the murders that Cecil Battle was arrested in New Brunswick on a charge of assault, having slashed another negro with a knife or razor.

1921

Mr. McCormick, steward at the Rutgers mess-hall, states that Jane Gibson collected the swill for her pigs. She paid no compensation for this concession. After she had been engaged in this for some time, McCormick